for one-to-one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support voluntary blood donation.

Practice of Ayurvedic Massage

†505. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreigners are being looted in the name of Panchkarma (Ayurvedic);

(b) whether it is also a fact that in this manner Ayurveda as well as the country is being brought into disrepute;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these days the practice of Ayurvedic massage is in vogue; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to save domestic as well as foreign tourists from these quacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Panchkarma is an Ayurvedic medical procedure. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments and Ministry of Tourism to regulate Panchkarma Centres strictly according to approved procedure and other requirements. Panchkarma is becoming popular. Government do not have information about Centres indulging in malpractices.

Non-availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries

506. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prescribed medicines, both Allopathic and Ayurvedic, are not available in the CGHS Dispensaries for dispensing to the beneficiaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many banned and expired drugs are dispensed across the counter in medical stores, CGHS dispensaries and Government hospitals in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to put an end to this problem?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Allopathic/Ayurvedic medicines available in the CGHS dispensaries are supplied immediately to the CGHS beneficiaries. The bulk purchase of Allopathic medicines for CGHS are made through the Medical Stores Organisation (MSO) of the Dte. GHS. In cases where the MSO is not able to supply medicines or the Govt. specialist prescribes medicines outside the Govt. formulary, the CGHS procures the same based on the individual prescription of the beneficiaries from the authorized local chemists appointed by the CGHS. In the case of urgently needed drugs, authority slips are issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement through the authorized local chemist.

At present, the availability of Allopathic medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate, but inconvenience to the beneficiaries on this account is minimized by purchasing medicines from the authorized local chemists appointed by the CGHS. Steps are in hand to procure essential and frequently used medicines at the earliest.

In the case of CGHS covered cities where authorisd local chemists have not been appointed for supplying Ayurvedic medicines, the beneficiaries are authorised to purchase the prescribed medicines from open market and claim reimbursement of the expenses later.

(b) and (c) No banned/expired drugs are dispensed in CGHS dispensaries/hospitals or supplied by the Medical Stores Organisation of the Dte. GHS.

In respect of Government hospitals in the country, the information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Discrepancies in the population policy

507. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has asked to explain certain discrepancies in the population policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to review the National Family Welfare Programme and policy to ensure that there is no violation of the spirit behind the policy?